

Monty & Eltham

The Catholic Parishes of
St Francis Xavier & Our Lady Help of Christians



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay respect to the elders past, present and emerging of the Kulin Nation.

30 May 2023

Rev Michael F. Sierakowski

Moderator

The Catholic Parishes of St Francis Xavier Montmorency,
and

Our Lady Help of Christians Eltham

Via email: montmorency@cam.org.au |
eltham@cam.org.au



We proclaim a crucified Christ
1Co 1:23

Dear Michael,

My prayerful greetings to you.

Thank you for your letter of 28 April 2023, seeking my approval for a new name in furthering the petition for the amalgamation of the Parishes of St Francis Xavier Montmorency and Our Lady Help of Christians Eltham - to become the Parish of the Risen Christ - Montmorency & Eltham.

I have now been able to have final consultation with the Council of Priests (can. 515§2) and the College of Consultors, and am pleased to advise you that following the above-mentioned consultation, I have amalgamated the Parishes of St Francis Xavier Montmorency and Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham in the new Parish of the Risen Christ, which will take effect from 30 June 2023.

I ask that a copy of the attached Decree be displayed on the Church noticeboard in each of the Churches for one calendar month before that date, and that the matter is to be drawn to the attention of the faithful by the celebrant of the Mass at all parochial Masses in all churches on Saturday evening, 24 June 2023, and Sunday 25 June 2023.

It is a requirement that both this letter and the Decree be retained in your Parish Archives. Likewise, copies will be held in the Archdiocesan Archives for both of the parishes.

Thank you for your ongoing ministry in these neighbourhoods of grace, and the work of bringing together these communities of God's people in Montmorency and Eltham. Please be assured of my constant prayers for you and your people.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community.

For more information visit pol.org.au/eltham or pol.org.au/montmorency.

We support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivors.



PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION

OUR PEOPLE & OUR CONTACT DETAILS



Parish Priest

Michael Sierakowski - **Moderator**

michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au

Parish Office

all correspondence to:

86 Mayona Road,
Montmorency Vic 3094
9435 4742

eltham@cam.org.au

montmorency@cam.org.au

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

Tue-Fri 9am-3pm

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer

SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au

Kerry Mash:

Volunteer

Wed & Fri 10am-3pm

Websites:

www.pol.org.au/montmorency

www.pol.org.au/eltham

Facebook:

St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency

Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items:

eltham@cam.org.au

Schools

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Acting Principal: Mark Pinkerton: 9439 7824

school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

available half an hour before
any weekday or weekend Parish Mass.

Collections: 21 May 2023

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving Cash	\$121.00	\$503.00
Presbytery Cash	\$263.45	\$387.95

Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
February	\$5,345.56	\$8,405.00	\$13,750.56
March	\$5,590.48	\$10,815.00	\$16,405.48
April	\$6,822.52	\$10,517.00	\$17,339.52

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 3 - St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

12:00pm Baptisms: Ilara Montmorency

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 4 - Holy Trinity Feast Day

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Alba Eltham

Monday 5

11:30am Mass : Holy Trinity Feast Day Holy Trinity

1:00pm Funeral: Margaret Bakewell Montmorency

Tuesday 6

9:30am Mass (& SFX Yrs 3 & 4) Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

Wednesday 7

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

1:00pm Small Church Community Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 8

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 9

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 10

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist Montmorency

Sunday 11

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

Monday 12 - King's Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 13

9:30am Mass Montmorency

2:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 14

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Thursday 15

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 16

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 17

12:00pm Baptisms: Chloe, Luka & Lana Montmorency

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 18

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Ariana & Saskia Eltham

Tuesday 20

9:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

Wednesday 21

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

1:00pm Small Church Community Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 22

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

2:30pm Mass Calvary Lower Plenty Garden Views

Friday 23

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 24

12:00pm Baptisms: Makai, Bennett Montmorency



Let us pray for all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith ...

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Margaret Bakewell

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

John Stanhope

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Gay, Gayle, Helen, Maurice, Edwinda Bacani, Perly Bacani, Rita Bevanda, Maria Bredle, Kim Brisbane, Feliksa Chwasta, Pat Collins, Allan Dooley, Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Ysabelle Fanlo, Alana Foulds, Bob Fraser, Melanie Lam, Cindy Morrissey, Andrew Pighin, Aguatha Spina

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

Michael Nunn

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Violetta, Michael Bonicci, Bill Boyce, Shannon Donahoe, Peter Gaffney, Jade McAlear, Beth Morganti, Fiona Rogers, Rosemary Scully, Ian Sturman, James Sutton, Sarah Thompson

To include an anniversary please contact Parish Office
9435 4742 or eltham@cam.org.au.



Book launch – The School That Hope Built

Over 21 years, The School of St Jude, in Arusha, Tanzania, has grown from three students to three schools, over 300 scholars supported in tertiary studies, 370 alumni who have graduated from tertiary studies, and 350 staff.

We're so excited! The founder - Gemma, author - Maddie and Enock – past student, are coming to Eltham to share the wonderful story of the School of St Jude in Tanzania. We'd love to share the opportunity with anyone who is interested. Come along to be inspired, enjoy some afternoon tea, and hear about their new book - **The School That Hope Built**.

Sunday 4 June, 3:00pm - 4:30pm
Living & Learning Nillumbik, 739 Main Rd, Eltham
No cost. Limited places.

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/CIGVO>



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday 3 June 2023

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm
Ilara Gabriella Spena

Baptism

Sunday 4 June 2023

Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, 12:00pm
Alba Helen Anna Spolidoro

Baptism



If you, or someone you know, are finding it difficult to get to church on Sundays, and would appreciate someone to visit them with Communion, once a week or fortnight on a mutually agreed upon day & time, please contact Trish 0402 914 817.



SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS GROUP TRAINING

TUESDAY 6 JUNE 2023 — 3:00PM AT OLHC ELTHAM

In 2022 the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne launched the mandatory Safeguarding Essentials online training module, for all volunteers and employees, as part of the Child Safeguarding Requirements.

The purpose of this training is to provide:

- foundational knowledge that will help us to perform our roles, and
- a clear understanding of our duty of care and of expectations with regards to safeguarding children, young people and the vulnerable from all forms of abuse and harm.

In Dec 2022 we successfully offered two group training Sessions, as an alternative to completing the training online.

Now due to popular demand we are running a further, face to face, group training session at:
Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Eltham on Tuesday 6 June at 3:00 pm.

Whilst this training session is designed for volunteers within both parishes, we encourage all interested parishioners to attend.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

OLHC and SFX Safeguarding Team



Passionist Family Group Movement

'A FAMILY FOR ALL'

Celebrating:

50 years

In 2023, the PFGM celebrates its GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY: 50 years since Passionist Family Groups emerged from the developing Catholic parish of St Anthony of the Fields in Terrey Hills, NSW in 1973. From the initiative of their priest, the late **Fr Peter McGrath CP** of the Passionist Order, he and others set about preserving the original community spirit when people knew each other by name and shared each other's joys and struggles.

These first 'Family Groups' were such a convincing model of community they eventually formed twenty-six Passionist Family Groups at Terrey Hills. This initiative and way of being church became so popular and successful, that the Movement grew exponentially, spreading across Australia and into New Zealand.



SFX Montmorency Family Groups

Much later, in 1995, fourteen Passionist Family Groups were formed at St Francis Xavier Parish in Montmorency at the initiative of several enthusiastic parishioners and the then PP, Fr Peter Matheson. Pictured are the original SFX Parish PFGM Coordinators **Val and Terry Carrigg**. Sadly, they passed away within weeks of each other in 2008.



In 2023, there are six active Passionist Family Groups in the Montmorency Parish. These groups are made up of both original and later members who expressed interest in joining and were warmly welcomed over that time.



The current Montmorency PFGM Parish coordinators, **Joan and David Muller**, have been parishioners of both the Eltham Parish and Montmorency Parishes over the years.

Joan and David, together with Fr Michael, invite all interested people from both Montmorency and, especially Eltham, to join a Family Group OR if the number of interested new members is large, to form a new Passionist Family Group within Montmorency/Eltham.

What is a Family Group?

A Family Group provides an extended family for all who wish to belong: church-going or not, young or elderly, married, single, separated or divorced: 'A Family for All'.

EVERYONE is welcome to join.

What does a Family Group do?

Ideally, Family Groups gather once a month to enjoy being together, to get to know one another and gradually to develop supportive relationships at gatherings such as a dinner, a picnic/bike ride, barbecue, pizza night, local train trip, quiz night/afternoon, etc.

If children belong to a Family Group, it is suggested that every second month be an adults-only gathering so that the adults can get to know each other well.

Some Family Groups enjoy an annual weekend away together.



Some members of the Heagerty Family Group on a day out together

Joining a Passionist Family Group could be for you:

- Would you like to meet regularly with others in caring, social situations to build the bonds of Christian friendship?
- Are you new to this Parish?
- Have you no immediate family or friends nearby?
- Do you want to involve your child/children in your Christian sharing directly, if possible? If not, then indirectly by your example?
- Have your circumstances changed since you moved into the Parish: Retirement? Death of a partner? Children moved away?



Montmorency PFGM Leaders' Weekend 2019

Many Family Group activities revolve around hospitality and the simpler these events are, the more enjoyable they can be.

Passionist Priest, Fr Brian Traynor CP, emphasises that keeping things simple (and inexpensive) helps to preserve the essence of the Passionist Family Group Movement, especially in relation to hospitality.

Fr Brian writes:

'Most people live 'ordinary' lives and they can be reached by 'ordinary' people. We just need to invite people to get together and let them know that it's nothing special – other than they are contributing to the event! There is no need to think of complex Family Group functions to organise – just open your home! Remember Jesus included in his call to invite the poor and needy- the ones who can't repay you.'

The call is to 'reach out'.

Ideally, over time, this comes naturally within a Passionist Family Group.

Nearby parishes with Family Groups include: Diamond Creek, Greensborough, Mill Park, Lalor, Templestowe, Donvale, Doncaster East.

The PFGM motto "A Family for All" continues to live on in 143 Catholic Parishes throughout Australia!



Mill Park Parish celebrates its 30th Anniversary in 2022

Special words from our founder on a past Montmorency Anniversary:

The excerpt below is from a letter that Fr Peter McGrath wrote to Fr Peter Matheson PP at Montmorency in 2005 on the occasion of the Montmorency Parish's 10th Anniversary of belonging to the Passionist Family Group Movement:

"Well done!

You will never realise in this life the little miracles that have happened in your people's hearts because you have reached out to each other.

I believe that you have lived the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ.

What you have done to the least, the lonely, the sick and grieving you have done to Him.

Life is made up of little things - hidden kindnesses and care that never made the headlines.

You are the Church.

God bless and protect each one of you."

For more information:

Passionist Family Group Movement

National website: www.pfgm.org

Montmorency/Eltham Parish PFGM Coordinators -

Joan Muller: Ph: 0434 334 609

David Muller: Ph: 0429 881 754

Email: dptjmuller@hotmail.com

PFGM Southern Team Coordinators-

Frances & Michael Sullivan: Ph 0457 685 835

Email: pfgm.victas@gmail.com



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www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au




20th Birthday
 The Montmorency Craft Group celebrates our 20th Birthday during June.

We meet fortnightly (Tuesday 10am to 12noon) at SFX Church, meeting room under the church. We work on our own projects, enjoy morning tea, show & tell, and share our joys & sorrows.

Enquires:
Sylvia 0428427102 or Gail 0418351619




Catholic Theological College

Find Your Path at CTC Online Information Session

Monday 19 June at 7.30pm (AEST)

Register via our website:
ctc.edu.au/information-session



For more information contact: Dr Christopher Knauf ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/



Beanies! Scarves! Socks!

We are still collecting beanies, scarves, socks and gloves in the baskets in both churches.

'whenever you did it to one of these, you did it to me'

Patsy Skipper: 0429 439 675, & Mary O'Connor



Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 3/4 June	
Armstrong, Miranda	R10:00
Ballenger, Nima	E10:00
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	C10:00
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Jones, Marion	W6:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Leahy Family	PRSE
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Taylor, Colin	H10:00
Taylor, Trish	H10:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30
	ASE
Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 10/11 June	
Azzopardi, Michael	E10:00
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	PRYR
Davidson, John	W8:30
Edwards, Elisabeth	C10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Ilfie, Yvonne	E10:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Rigg Family	PRSE
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Scully, Greg	R10:00
Scully, Helen	ASE
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Turnbull, Mark	H10:00
Turnbull, Pauline	H10:00
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham; C = Commentator; E = Euch. Minister;
 H = Hospitality; PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;
 W = Minister of the Word; R = Reader





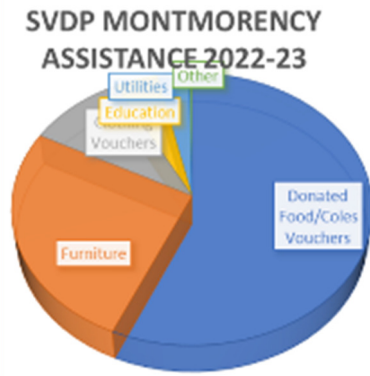
*To the parishioners of SFX and the families at SFX and HT primary schools,
we would like to share with you our
Annual Report from St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Montmorency Conference
for the period 1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023*

This is the 190th anniversary of the founding of St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) in Paris by Frederic Ozanam. It is also the 58th year of our parish church and of the Montmorency (SVDP) conference. We assist people in Lower Plenty, Montmorency, Briar Hill, St Helena and Eltham North. Home visitation is at the heart of SVDP mission & vision and as such seeks to be recognized as a caring Catholic organization offering a 'hands up' to people in need in our local community irrespective of their faith, ethnicity, social background, gender or political opinions. We do this, on your behalf, by respecting their dignity and privacy, sharing our hope for them and *encouraging them to take control of their own destiny*. We are inspired by the joy of the Gospels and our Catholic social teachings to do things that matter. The spirit to feed, heal, shelter, nurture, and inspire – the power to change lives – is in everyone.

Findings from multiple studies show that women are at an increased likelihood of homelessness due to domestic & family violence, economic inequality, and inadequate income support payments which entrench poverty and disadvantage. The current cost-of-living crisis is an additional driver with everything from housing, food, utilities and day-to-day essentials placing women at heightened risk of homelessness and insecurity.

Support from Schools and Parishioners

SVDP Montmorency is most grateful and thankful to our supporters: *SFX parishioners, our two parish primary schools - Holy Trinity (HT) and St Francis Xavier (SFX) and Catholic Ladies College (CLC)*, through your support of our appeals. We are entirely dependent on the generosity of the SFX parishioners and the school communities.



Over the past year, your conference assisted 189 adults (32 more than the previous year) and 154 children (8 more than the previous year) by providing support, friendship, material assistance and advice about accessing government, health and financial services. In addition, we also visited 37 families with Christmas hampers and gifts.

Although our resources are continually being stretched we were, thanks to your generosity, able to **provide assistance to the value of \$ 25,948 over the twelve months to April 2023.**

Below is a summary of how we have provided material assistance to people in need in the Montmorency/Briar Hill/Lower Plenty/St Helena/Eltham North areas-

(Please note: All postage, telephone, travelling expenses and any other administrative expenses associated with the services we provide to local community are borne by the members themselves. As a consequence, we can assure all parishioners that ALL donations remain within the Montmorency conference and go entirely to help those we assist in the district)

How to donate to the SVDP Winter appeal

- Envelopes:** SVDP envelopes are available at SFX in church pews or on the tables at the entrance doors or at the Presbytery/Church office. You are welcome to leave your donations and/or envelopes in the SVDP Donation boxes on the tables near the entrances to the church, at the Parish Office, to an SVDP member or to Mike on 0417 221 245. Receipts can be issued by simply completing name and address on the envelope.
- On Line:** vinnies.org.au, in terms of directing funds back to the Montmorency or Eltham Conferences, we request that you state **Montmorency** or **Eltham** in the "Comments/Conference Name box" which is just after the postal address box.
- By Phone:** call 13 18 12 and state your donation is for the **Montmorency or Eltham conference.**
- Direct Credit:** BSB 063003 Account 10081787 **with a reference Montmorency 916.** In this way monies will be credited to the Montmorency Conference account and stay within our community. **NOTE THIS IS A DIFFERENT ACCOUNT NUMBER TO PREVIOUS YEARS**

If you are donating **online, by phone or direct credit** could you please send an email to msaid@netspace.net.au with your full

SFX Grade 1 response to the Creation Story

The children from Grade 1 listened to the story of Creation in Godly Play form. We had a small discussion in the church. The children were encouraged to pick out what they would like to thank God for, in particular, from the seven days of Creation. Here are their artistic responses (more to follow next week!):



Gospel: John 3:16-18

Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.'



Reflection:

The holy Spirit has often been called the forgotten person of the Holy Trinity. Ironically, today's set of readings seems to reinforce this perception. The first reading reveals the name of the one God. The gospel's primary focus is on God's Son. This means that the only reference to the Holy Spirit today is in the last breath of the second reading. Earlier verses from chapter three of John's gospel that refer to being born of the Spirit are not heard.

Recent Johannine scholarship, however, has discerned the presence of a wisdom or "Sophia" tradition throughout the gospel. Time and again, Jesus can be seen as the embodiment of the wisdom that features prominently in several books of the Old Testament. There, wisdom is generally a feminine figure who makes God's creating, redeeming and judging work present in the world. This is what today's gospel attributes explicitly to God's Son, and perhaps implicitly to Sophia.

Of the gospel's three sentences, the first two make strong positive assertions about God's purpose in sending his Son, namely to have eternal life and to be saved. After these encouraging declarations, the third sentence is quite downbeat. Those who refuse to believe, it says, condemn themselves. Ministers of the word would be right to give primary emphasis to the two affirmations and only secondary attention to the final words of warning.

Break Open the Word 2023

Prayers of the Faithful for 4 June 2023 - The Most Holy Trinity

Leader: We offer our prayers to God - a God of peace, love and unity.

Jesus' life is a demonstration of kindness, empathy and patience. May we be generous with our time and skills, nurturing and encouraging others to blossom and grow. May this spirit bring cooperation into our homes, schools and communities.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

"The grace of the Lord, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." We thank God for his presence in our lives. May we in turn, bless those we meet with graciousness and love. We remember those who have lost hope, living in isolation, insecurity or homelessness. May we nurture them with prayer and practical support and may the graciousness and love of the Lord bring encouragement and renewed hope..

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

As St Vincent de Paul announces their winter appeal this weekend, we give thanks for the vital work of this organisation in our parish, and the positive, practical assistance it offers to all those in need. May the work of St Vincent de Paul be blessed and supported.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

"Glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, to God who is, who was and who is to come." Our eyes cannot see, predict or understand the wisdom and nature of our God. Our lives rest in his hands. We remember especially those living with mental or physical illness; those fleeing natural disaster or war; asylum seekers waiting for welcome and acceptance. We pray together for the strength to listen and trust.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

May the Spirit inspire and guide our two church communities as they merge and form a new shared community. We pray for grace, understanding and creativity.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died especially *Margaret Bakewell & Michael Nunn*, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time including *John Stanhope*. May they rest in the eternal peace and love of our God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless and guide us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen